

HB 7023 AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics represents nearly 1000 primary care pediatricians as well as specialists. We have a School Health Committee, made up of physicians, nurses, and state agency personnel who are committed to the health of school aged children.

One of our missions is to make children healthy throughout their school experience. Our members typically see their patients many times throughout their young lives, but they certainly see children upon school admission and for each of the years necessary for the mandated health assessment records, otherwise known as the blue school form.

Today we are commenting on the changes to Section 4 (a), (b) and (c).

In fact, these changes are in compliance with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and we support them completely.

In regard to the language introduced in testimony given at the public hearing on 3/19 by the Connecticut Association of Optometrists, we are opposed to this addition. We believe that the notice to parents on any child who has an issue/failure with any of these screens (vision, hearing or postural) is sufficient. Each parent or guardian will deem to which medical provider they shall depend on for advice. Parents certainly may take their child to an optometrist, but it should not be mandated.

There are many, many children who fail vision screens for many reasons, and sending each and every one to an optometrist or an ophthalmologist has never been proven to be a reasonable use of resources.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

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